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SAIONJI-HARADA MEMOIRS

Chapter 155 (14 November 1934)

I met the Foreign Minister and asked him about the Chinese Eastern Railway negotiation.-----"In other words, negotiations were being carried on very slowly. Regarding the Disarmament Conference in London, the disarmament plan had been drafted, but the United States and Great Britain could not openly oppose the plan submitted by Japan. It appears that the United States and Great Britain are changing their course toward a political standpoint. Entirely apart from this problem, the Ministry is trying to bring about a rapprochement between Japan and Britain. It would not come right out and make an alliance, but it was going to form something like a Four-Power Pact. At the present time Ambassador Matsudaira was making approaches to the British Government. Those invested with full powers had been given instructions to 'suppress gradually the question of disarmament, and to take a calm attitude to the end.'

It appeared that they were carrying out their instructions. These plans of rapprochement with England were of the utmost secrecy and were not even discussed in the Cabinet meetings."